Issue of Kisan Credit Cards in AP

792. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the banks that are issuing Kisan Credit Cards in the State of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the details of insurance cover extended to farmers who have been given the Kisan Credit Cards and premium that farmers has to pay to be covered;

(c) what are the parameters fixed for fixing the credit limit to famers;

(d) whether any conversion for re-scheduling of loans has been done in the case of farmers of AP during the last three years; and

(e) if so, the details thereof, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available.

External debt

793. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is India's external debt as on 31st March, 2007;

(b) what is Indian's internal debt as on 31st March, 2007;

(c) whether it is a fact that external debt in terms of percentage of GDP is more than 16 per cent;

(d) what is the reduction in the external debt due to India Millenium Deposits as on 31st December, 2006; and

(e) what prudent external debt management policies that Government are pursuing to bring down the external and internal debt to manageable limit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) According to the latest available information,

India's total external debt amounted to US$ 136.52 billion (Rs. 638,181 crore) at end-September 2006.

(b) As per the Union Budget 2007-08, the outstanding internal debt and other liabilites of the Government of India at the end of 2006-07 (RE) is estimated to be Rs. 2,434,030 crore.

(c) External debt as a percentage of GDP was 15.8 in 2005-06.

(d) Redemption of India Millennium Deposits of US$ 5.5 billion in December 2005 has helped in reducing the external debt from US $ 125.15 billion at end-September 2005 to US $ 120.24 billion at end December 2005.

(e) The Government has been following the policy of fiscal consolidation through higher tax revenues and moderation in the growth of non-plan expenditure. Efforts to stay on course and reach the targets set under Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, 2003 are reflective of the commitment of the Government ot rnoderate internal debt. Similarly, prudent external debt management policy pursued by the Government includes maintaining external debt wihin manageable limits, by raising funds on concessional terms and from less expensive sources with longer maturities, monitoring of short-term debt, prepaying high cost loans, rationalising interest rates on Non-Resident Indian deposits, restricting end-use of External Commercial Borrowings, Limiting trade credits and encouraging non-debt creating capital flows.

Suits filed against farmers

794. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) how many suits have been filed by the nationalised Banks to recover the money against the farmers who have taken loans from banks since last three years;

(b) the details of such farmers, State-wise;

(c) how many farmers have been sent to jail in this regard; and

(d) the details of such farmers, State-wise and gender-wise?